MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister has taken note of it.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is in a position to consider the model adopted by the Middle-East. In the Middle-East, if such a crime is committed, they cut off the hands ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, आप बैठिए: From Jharkhand, you have gone to the Middle-East.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Only hanging and keeping the man in jail is of no use. Everbody forgets it after a few days or a few months. But if the hands are cut, then nobody will commit this type of crime. Why should it be only on women? Why not on men? Let their hands be cut off, then only they will come to know that they should not do this thing. This is a very serious matter, and I want the reply from the Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I can understand the anguish which has been expressed. Any sensitive person will sympathise with it. Anything which has to be done, can be done only with the concurrence of the two Houses. The laws are not made by individuals or Ministers; they are made by the Parliament. Whatever is there, we are using them. If any change is required, and if it is acceptable to all, that can be looked into.

श्री सभापति: माननीय गृह मंत्री जी, मैं आपसे एक जानकारी लेना चाहूंगा। मैंने समाचार-पत्रों में पढ़ा है कि इस प्रकार के केसिस, सिरियस केसिस फास्ट ट्रेक कोर्ट्स में जाते थे, लेकिन फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट्स के लिए बजट मंजूर नहीं हुआ है और संभवत: ये एक तारीख से बंद हो जाएंगी। आपको इसकी कोई जानकारी है, तो बताइए।

श्री शिवराज वी॰ पाटिल: सभापति जी, यह आपकी तरफ से आया है और हम इसे बहुत अहमियत देते हैं। मैं आपसे सदन के फ्लोर पर कहना चाहूंगा कि फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट्स बंद न हों, हम इसकी कोशिश करेंगे।

*464. [*The questioner (SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN SHARMA) was absent. For answer vide page* 40].

Meeting of Inter-State Council Standing Committee

*465.PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY††:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarmani Reddy.

(a) whether Inter-State Council Standing Committee adopted a draft action plan on good governance, land reforms, targeting of subsidies and need for user charges;

(b) if so, whether this is the first meeting of the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council after the installation of the present Government;

(c) if so, how many State Ministers attended the meeting and the central Ministers who were representing the Central Government in this meeting; and

(d) what was the outcome of the discussions held;

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council in its meeting held on 29th March, 2005 considered an agenda item on Blue print of Action Plan on Good Governance and generally agreed with the draft Action Plan placed before it.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The meeting, chaired by Union Home Minister, was attended by four Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of five States.

(d) The Committee considered the agenda items on Blue Print of Action Plan on Good Governance and Disaster Management-preparedness of States to cope with disasters, and their valuable suggestions to enhance the preparedness. By and large, the Standing Committee agreed with the road map proposed for improving governance and measures to cope with disasters. The Standing Committee also recommended that there is a need to set up a National Centre for Good Governance with a view to showcase that best practices of good governance and provide opportunity to States to adopt them.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Inter-State Council suggested any labour reforms in the Exit policy with adequate compensation, and whether social security measures like health care, maternity and child care, Provident Fund benefits and family benefits were also discussed. if so, to what extent decisions were taken, and what are the steps being taken to implement those decisions?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, labour reforms is a specific issue and it is part of good governance, It was not discussed in the Council; it has to be discussed in the Ministry first, and then, it has to be discussed at large. Now, what we are trying to do through the Inter-State Council is to have a look at the National level, at the State level, at the district level and at the

lower levels also, in making the decisions for providing the funds and for providing the facilities to the people who require them, and also for doing something for the future. Suppose we send our childdren to schools today. They will come out of the universities after 25 years. That means after 25 years, the requirements of the society will be completely different from the requirements of today. so we shall have to visualise the conditions also which will prevail after 10 or 20 or 50 years and prepare accordingly. Good governance relates to all these things, and not to any specific issue as such.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, my second supplementary is this. In the hon. Minister's reply, it is mentioned that this Inter-State Council meeting was attended by five Chief Ministers only. It is a very important meeting. Is there any minimum limit stipulated for the presence of Chief Ministers? What is their actual planning? How many States are its members? We have 29 or 30 States, but only five Chief Ministers attended it.

Secondly, you have mentioned in your reply that you have discussed the 'Blue print of Action Plan'. Is there a time limit? How are you going to implement all these issues of good governance?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the Inter-State Council is one thing; the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council is a another thing. Inter-State Council consists of all the Chief Ministers of the States and some Ministers of the Union Government. This was meeting of the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council in which only a few Chief Ministers and a few union Ministers were expected to come. We were considering the blueprint which has been prepared by the Government and after getting their approval and sanction, it could be put to the Inter-State Council.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the answer, it is stated that the Standing Committee also recommended that there is a need to set up a National Centre for Good Governance with a view to showcase the best practices of good governance and provide opportunities to States to adopt them. I would have thought that the Government of India itself should be the national centre for good governance. I am not...*(Interruptions)*... is this an idea of setting up an institution or a university? I request the Minister to please throw some light on this rather intrigunig recommendation of setting up a centre for this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, of course, what the Government of India does or what the State Governments do, are the most important things. But

when certain steps are taken by the Union Government and the State Governments or certain theories are propounded at the national and international levels, and certain kinds of things have to be done, what is required is the training of those who are involved in it, acquainting them as to what has to be done. For instance, modernisation of administration. Does it mean only computerisation of administration, does it mean having different kinds of rules, does it mean having different kinds of approaches to the problems which may arise in ten years' time or fifteen or twenty five years' time? Now, these are the things which require study and examination by the group of persons sitting and doing only this thing, and not getting involved in administration. This institution is likely to be an institution of international standard. Now, we have floated this idea. It will go to the Cabinet and the Cabinet would decide. Then, we will establish it. But it will be an institution of international standard in which the Union Government, the State Governments, the district bodies and the local bodies and even the Non-Governmental Organisations who want to take advantage, will be allowed to make use of it. This is an idea' which has been floated, which is yet to be formally accepted at the final Government's level.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, good governance is a dynamic subject. In the light of the trying circumstances and the varied dimensions and constraints, I like to know whether the Government is aware that it warrants to undergo a change from the present system to the new system. Do you have any system of analysis or study? Is your national centre, which is envisaged in the recommendation, going to be installed very soon? Who will take care of the and study from time to time and do something concrete?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the hon. Member is a Member of the Standing Committee and there are many hon. Members of the Standing Committee. This issue was discussed in the Standing Committee also and very, very good suggestions were given there. One of the things which were thrown up in that discussion was that it is not only the laws, the rules and the procedures, but the psychology of those who implement them is important. And the psychology of the members of the entire society is also be taken into account. How to take these things to the people, to those who are responsible for these things? Now, this is an institution which is trying to create, which can help us in achieving some of the very good suggestions which were given in the Standing Committee discussions, in the discussions which had taken place. This is at a formative stage. We shall have to take the final decision and when we take the decision, I am sure, we would like to discuss it with the hon. Members.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister whether he is aware that some years ago, the Ministry of Information Technology, the Union Government and the Government of Andhra Pradesh did start a National Centre for Good Governance which is operating in Hyderabad today. So, rather than start another centre, why not strengthen the existing centre?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am aware of the existence of that institution and we have been using that institution. But this is an institution which is started by the State Government mainly and it is doing well. I am not finding fault with it. But then, it was suggested that let us have an institution at national level of international quality. That is why, we are thinking about it. We have not taken a final decision. We are all inclined to have it, and everybody who had considered this issue said, "Let us have it." But, then, it is not in opposition to any existing institutions. It will strengthen those institutions.

Dowry related atrocities on women

*466. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minsiter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of atrocities on women during the year 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; State-wise break-up;

(b) how many culprits involved in the torture of women during these years have been arrested and punished;

(c) the number of dowry related cases during the last three years; State-wise;

(d) the State-wise number of deaths in dowry related cases in the in-laws houses during the last three years; and

(e) how Government propose to proceed for curbing these menaces?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of case of atrocities on women registered during the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 were 143795, 143034 and 140601 respectively, State-wise break-up of which are at Statement-I (*See* below)